



ALCYONE PUSILLA.

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ALCYONE PUSILLA.

Little Kingfisher.

Ceyx pusilla, Temm. Pl. Col., 595. fig. 3.

Nu-reá-bin-mo, Aborigines of the Cobourg Peninsula.

THIS lovely little Kingfisher is a native of the northern shores of Australia; the specimens in my collection were all procured at Port Essington where it is a rare bird; and from it always inhabiting the densest mangroves, is not only seldom seen, but is extremely difficult to procure; in general habits and manners it very much resembles the *Alcyone azurea*, but its note is somewhat more shrill and piping, and its flight more unsteady. Specimens of this species from New Guinea, which I have had opportunities of examining in the noble collection at Leyden, present no difference whatever from those found in Australia.

The food of the *Alcyone pusilla* consists exclusively of fish, which are taken precisely after the manner of the Common Kingfisher of our own island.

The sexes are alike in size and colour.

Lores, a tuft behind the ear-coverts and under surface silky white; forehead, sides of the neck, wing-coverts and the margins of the secondaries green; primaries brownish black; all the upper surface and a large patch on each side on the chest brilliant intense blue; tail dull deep blue; irides dark blackish brown; bill black; legs and feet greenish grey.

The figures are of the natural size.